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PRICES REACH HIGHEST POINT

Commercial Agency Figures Show All Records Broken

Congressional Committee Will Investigate Conditions In District Of Columbia And Expects Results That Will Enlighten Whole Country—Secretary Wilson To Prove That Farmer Is Not Greatest Gainer—Says Retailers Biggest Booster

New York, Jan. 24.—Figures have been compiled by Bradstreet covering a record of prices on 96 commodities that enter into daily and direct consumption of the people, and the result shows that the cost of living has now reached an absolutely high record, exceeding even that of March 1, 1907, when prices went soaring in anticipation of the panic which came in the fall of that year. The figures of December last were below the previous high record of 1907, but the continuous skyward movement of prices in the last month of 1909 had established a new high water mark by Jan. 1.

The figures compiled by Bradstreet are known as "index numbers." They are based on actual wholesale quotations per pound for the commodities in question which, to make them comprehensive, are averaged over a wide area of markets. When it is said that the index number for Jan. 1, 1910 was \$2.2310 it



SECRETARY WILSON

Believes Farmer Not Getting Full Benefit of Inflated Food Prices.

means that a man buying at wholesale one pound each of the 96 commodities on that date would have to pay that sum as a total. No attempt is made to compute retail prices because of the wide fluctuations.

Rose 97 Cents In Year.

The new "number" surpasses the previous high record of March 1, 1907, \$2.1993 by 1.1 per cent. This ratio also measures the advance that was made on the 96 commodities in the month of December last. At the same time the present index number reflects a gain of 11.7 over Jan. 1, 1909, which means that the prices of the 96 articles rose approximately 97 cents within a year's time.

The new index number mirrors an increase of 19.5 per cent over the comparatively low point reached on June 1, 1908, but it is only 3.5 per cent over Jan. 1, 1907, also a time of ascending prices as forerunners of the panic. The gain over Jan. 1, 1906, is 10.8 per cent, while the rise over the same date in 1905 is 14.2 per cent, an increase over January, 1904, is 15.66 per cent.

Here is a table showing the important swings of the index number on the 96 commodities since Jan. 1, 1902.

High, Jan. 1, 1902.....	\$2.1252
Low, July 1, 1896.....	5.7019
High, Feb. 1, 1900.....	8.2307
Low, June 1, 1901.....	7.4181
High, Dec. 1, 1902.....	8.1413
Low, July 1, 1904.....	7.6137
High, March 1, 1907.....	9.1293

Low, June 1, 1908..... 7.7227

High, Jan. 1, 1910..... 9.2310

The 96 commodities included in the tabulation are divided into 13 general groups, as follows: Breadstuffs, live stock, provisions, fruits, hides and leather, textiles, metals, coal and coke, oils, naval stores, building materials, chemicals and drugs, and miscellaneous. While all of these enter into the cost of living to a greater or less extent, the higher cost is more pronounced when the groups are selected that enter more directly into personal consumption. Take these seven groups, embracing 59 commodities:

	July 1, 1896.	Jan. 1, 1910.
Breadstuffs.....	\$0.0524	\$0.1050
Live stock.....	0.1855	0.4010
Provisions.....	1.3619	2.3577
Hides and leather.....	0.8250	1.2850
Textiles.....	1.5799	2.7333
Coal and coke.....	0.0048	0.0069
Oils.....	0.2083	0.3728

Totals.....\$4.2177 \$7.2617

In other words, the man who would buy a pound each of the commodities embraced in this list, would have paid \$4.2177 on July 1, 1896, and \$7.2617 on Jan. 1 of the present year.

Numerous Probes Begin.

This week will see some interesting developments in the movement against the high cost of living. Next to the action of the federal authorities against the beef trust, the investigation by the District of Columbia committee of the house of representatives promises to yield the most satisfactory results. That committee is scheduled to begin its investigation today into the high prices prevailing in the district. While the inquiry will be confined to conditions in Washington, they will apply throughout the country. The announcement has been made that the committee would summon experts from all parts of the country. One of the first to testify before the committee will be Secretary of Agriculture Wilson. He seems to be the only person who has really made an investigation into the conditions and who will be able to present hard and cold facts.

The secretary already is satisfied that the farmer is not getting the exorbitant profits out of the beef that he raises, and it is said that a bulletin will be issued by the department of agriculture this week setting forth the fact.

Wilson Has Suspicion.

The secretary of agriculture has little doubt that the excessive profits on other farm products also are going into somebody else's pocket. In the secretary's opinion there is some excuse for a certain increase in the cost of living because the farmer has not been keeping pace with the increase in population, but this condition does not explain the present prices.

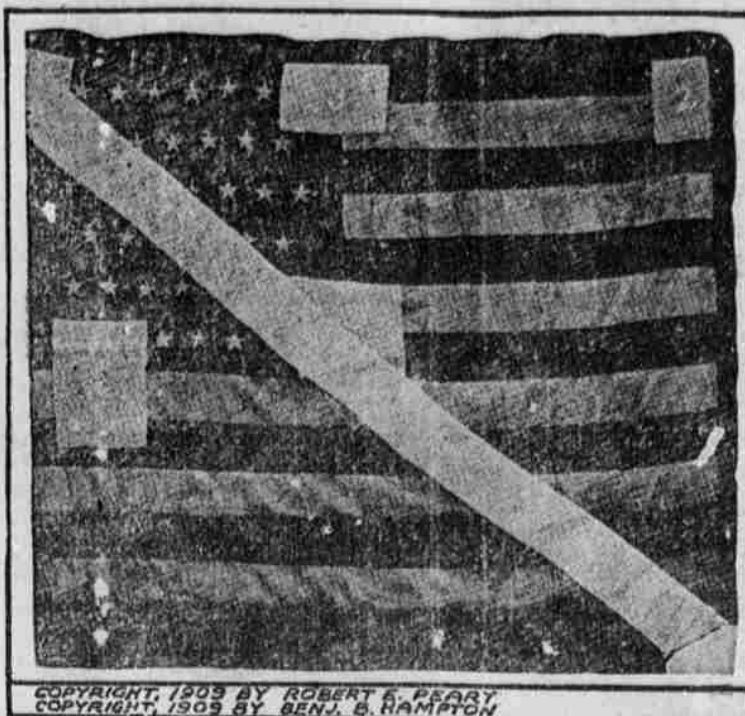
The increase in the retail price of meat, according to the department's information, also has been much greater relatively than the increase in the wholesale price. When the packer has raised on the retailer, the retailer has passed the raise along to the consumer with a little more tacked on for good measure.

APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE

Statement Sent Broadcast by Anti-Food Trust League.

Washington, Jan. 24.—A national conference on the subject of food prices was planned by the directors of the newly organized Anti-Food

THIS IS THE AMERICAN FLAG NAILED BY PEARY TO THE POLE.



This photograph, from the February issue of Hampton's Magazine, shows the actual silk flag "nailed to the north pole" by Commander Peary on April 6, 1909. The flag was made for Commander Peary twelve years ago by his wife. The broad strip extending originally from the upper left hand corner to the lower right hand corner of the flag was cut out by Commander Peary and left by him at the north pole. The rectangular pieces were left by him at the northern extremities of the three most northerly bodies of land in the world.

Trust League. The league claims a membership of 30,000 and hopes to increase that number to a million. Invitations to attend the conference will be extended to packers, manufacturers of foods, organizations which work for the uplift, women's clubs and associations, labor unions, etc. The date of the proposed conference has not been fixed.

"An address to the American people" was prepared and is in part as follows:

"The National Anti-Food Trust League stands for the American principle of fair play. The league is organized in behalf of the consumer as a bulwark against excessive prices of any staple food article."

The address concludes as follows: "We are aiming to make the National Anti-Food Trust League an organization so vast, so extensive and so powerful numerically that there will be no need to interdict the use of any article of food but that the general fear of such a general suspension and its direful consequences will have the effect of lowering prices and keeping them down."

MEAT SALES SHOW DECLINE

Cleveland Dealers, However, Maintain High Price Level.

Cleveland, O., Jan. 24.—The wide advertisement of the Cleveland meat strike has placed a sharp check on

the incoming supply. Although a canvass of all the retail butcher shops in the First ward, a representative middle-class section of the city, shows a falling off in the sale of from one-half to three-fourths in that locality, the exceedingly small receipts of live stock have operated, according to the butchers, to keep prices up. The decline on beef has been but 25 cents on the hoof, and on lambs 10 cents.

Two hundred wagonloads of chickens brought in from the country were rejected, commission men declaring that they cannot sell fowls at all.

LEGAL FIGHT OPENS TODAY

Packers and Government Ready for Probe at Chicago.

Chicago, Jan. 24.—With the heads of all the big packing houses gathered here and attorneys arrayed on each side, the government's investigation of the dressed meat industry is expected to be ready for action when the federal grand jury convenes today. Whether the price of meat is artificially kept high is to be the contention of a battle which may last for weeks.

The packers are ready for combat. "All I've got to say," said J. Ogden Armour, "is that such co-operation as may exist among the packers is a benefit to the public rather than the reverse."

COLD WAVE SCHEDULED FOR MIDDLE OF WEEK

Washington, Jan. 24.—Cold weather is not indicated for the eastern half of the United States during the next three days. A disturbance that is now approaching the Pacific coast will advance to the Rockies by tomorrow morning, cross the plains states and central valleys tomorrow and Wednesday.

day and advance to the Atlantic seaboard by about Thursday, preceded by rising temperature attended by rain in southern and snow or rain in northern states and followed by colder weather that will reach the plains states and central valleys about the middle of the week and the Atlantic states Thursday or Friday.

CHINAMAN SHOOT JAP

New York, Jan. 24.—Junk Hing, a Chinese cook, shot and mortally injured a Japanese valet named Y. Sato. Three minutes after the shooting the Chinese was found bending over a stove, preparing to cook supper.

25 KNOWN TO BE DEAD

Nairn, Ont., Jan. 24.—Fourteen more bodies were recovered from the wreckage of the Canadian Pacific train which went through the bridge over Spanish river, bringing the total number of known dead up to 25.

HIT BY ELECTRIC CAR HURLED TO DEATH

Columbus, O., Jan. 24.—Hurled from the mile-long Ohio Electric trolley over Alum creek by a speeding limited car, Mrs. C. W. Schau, 30, was picked up from the frozen ground 40 feet below a battered mass of flesh and bones. Her companion, Mrs.

James Faubert, saved her own life by a desperate display of nerve, hanging on to the shaking, quivering trolley with her hands while her feet dangled into space as the heavy car thundered by. The crew of the car hurried back and drew her up to the tracks, where she fainted.

INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS

Cincinnati, O., Jan. 24.—Word has been received that Commissioner of Labor Neill, government mediator under the Erdman law, will come from Washington today to investigate complaints of the telegraphers on the Big Four.

BURGLAR LANDED

Marietta, O., Jan. 24.—Dorus Donaldson, night operator for the Pennsylvania lines here, was caught robbing the National Drug company. He had forced an entrance through a window and was caught by the police.

TO OBSERVE NEUTRALITY

Managua, Nicaragua, Jan. 24.—Rear Admiral Kimball, commanding the American warships in Nicaraguan waters, has notified all Americans in the country that they must observe the laws of neutrality towards both Liberal and Conservative factions.

TILLMAN IS SUED

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 24.—In the supreme court today Lucy D. Tillman, wife of B. R. Tillman, Jr., brought suit against United States Senator Tillman and his wife for the recovery of her infant children, Dousha and Fernah. Young Mrs. Tillman alleges she has been deserted by her husband and that his parents, Senator and Mrs. Tillman, are keeping her children and not allowing her to see them.

MINISTER TRIES SUICIDE

Eats Pins and Glass When Accused of Forgery.

Providence, R. I., Jan. 24.—Rev. Raymond E. Walker, former pastor of the Granville Baptist church, whose recent arrest on the charge of forgery caused a stir among the church people of the state, is in a critical condition as the result of a desperate attempt to take his own life. Mr. Walker swallowed a score of pins and a considerable quantity of ground glass.

ICE WRECKS VILLAGE

Port Deposit, Md., Jan. 24.—The great ice gorge in the Susquehanna has left the larger part of this town a mass of wreckage. The flood, accompanied by masses of ice, swept the shore of the river for two miles, carrying everything before it. It was a night of terror for the residents. Many fled to the hills above the town. Some of them were rescued from houses by life savers in boats led by T. C. Bond, assistant cashier of the Cecil National bank.

The Foolish Man.

"I see," said the lady, "that a man in Ohio has got himself into trouble by marrying two women."

"Hub!" growled the bachelor boarder. "Just as though one wife couldn't make trouble enough!"—Chicago News

Calmness.

Remember on every occasion which lends thee to vexation to apply this principle—that this is not a misfortune but that to fear it nobly is good for thee.—Marcus Aurelius.

NAVAL RECRUIT ADMITS MURDER

James Hall Clears Mystery Of Rochester Cemetery

Was Camping In Burial Ground During Tramp Across Country And Followed Her To Lonely Spot Where She Placed Wreath On Father's Grave—Killed Her By Accident, Buries Body In Shallow Grave And Escapes On Freight Train

Portsmouth, N. H., Jan. 24.—The murder of Anna Schumacher in the Holy Sepulchre cemetery in Rochester, N. Y., on the afternoon of Aug. 7, 1909, has been robbed of its mystery by the confession of James Hall, the naval prisoner held on the United States prison ship Southbery on a charge of fraudulent enlistment, who says he killed the girl after assaulting her.

Hall's confession was to the effect that he was beating his way about the country last summer and on the night of Aug. 6 he was in Rochester and slept in the cemetery. He hung around next day, securing food from nearby houses and intended to sleep there that night.

Late in the afternoon he saw Anna Schumacher enter the cemetery with a bouquet of flowers for her father's grave and followed her until she was in the lonely part of the cemetery, where the grave was located. He approached the girl and made a repulsive proposal to her. She shrank from him and tried to run, but he caught her and stifled her cries while he assaulted her. This accomplished, he murdered her, although in his confession, he claims that the killing was an accident, that he only intended to stun her.

Alarmed at Deed.

When he found she was dead he became frightened and sought for some means of disposing of the body and while searching about the vicinity of the crime he came upon a shallow grave in the sand that had been dug by some boys at play. Into this he threw the mangled body of his victim and covered it with several inches of sand. He made his way to the tracks of a railroad, where he caught a freight train and was well on his way west before the body of his victim was discovered, 48 hours after the crime.

Hall comes originally from Minnesota, is of Swedish birth and about 26 years of age. Hall is not his right name, but he was brought up by a

family named Hall and has always gone by that name. His real name, which he has never used, he did not give.

ROBBED OF WAGES

Marion, O., Jan. 24.—While walking across a field near his home, R. H. Baker was attacked and robbed of his month's pay, overcoat, shoes and socks, tied and left lying in the field by thugs, who escaped on a passing freight train.

KILLED IN WRECK

Cincinnati, O., Jan. 24.—Five trainmen are dead as the result of a wreck on the Big Four on a curve near Riverdale, O.

THIS AND THAT

The Waverly hotel at Hot Springs, Ark., was destroyed by fire. Loss \$75,000.

Samuel Genell, 17, and an unknown companion, were drowned while skating on the Charles river at Boston.

Jack Johnson, the colored pugilist, has been held for trial on an assault charge in New York in the sum of \$1,000 bail.

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION HEADED BY PINCHOT

Washington, Jan. 24.—The election of Gifford Pinchot to succeed Mr. Charles W. Elliot as president of the National Conservation association was announced. Dr. Elliot, at whose suggestion Mr. Pinchot was elected, retains the honorary presidency. Mr. Pinchot will take active charge of the association today. Headquarters will be in Washington.

In commenting on his election, Mr. Pinchot declared that the association was not in politics. It has been rumored that it was designed to bring Theodore Roosevelt back to the White House.

TEAR DOWN BUILDING

Delaware, O., Jan. 24.—The report of Inspector Kearns of the state department of workshops and buildings, received by the city board of health, indicates that it will be necessary to tear down the walls of the High School building, burned two weeks ago. This will mean an additional expense of \$20,000 for the city.

ARRANGING SCHEDULE

Pittsburg, Jan. 24.—The joint schedule meeting of the two major leagues opened here today with Barney Dreyfus, president of the Pittsburg club, heading the movement for a 154-game schedule, while President Ebbetts of the Brooklyn club is equally firm in his stand for a schedule of 168 games.